



CITY OF TUCSON



MEDIA RELEASE

Tucson Fire Department
Fire Chief Dan Newburn

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paul McDonough, Captain
Public Information Office
(520) 235-7097 cell
(520) 410-1901 pager

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Do you know what to do when approached by an emergency vehicle?

The Tucson area is often crowded and congested with traffic conditions caused by collisions, work zones, holiday shoppers and winter visitors. Emergency vehicles are also impacted by these conditions. When somebody calls 911 for help – the men and women of the Tucson Fire Department respond, often with lights and sirens. How can everyday drivers help us to help you? – Normally, drivers will **HEAR us** first, next they will **SEE us**, and then we need drivers to **CLEAR for us**.

HEAR US - SEE US - CLEAR FOR US. C – L – E – A – R for emergency vehicles.

C – Calmly pull to and as close to the right edge of the roadway as possible and STOP.

L – Leave room. Keep intersections clear and never try to follow emergency vehicles.

E – Enter into traffic with caution after the emergency vehicle has passed. Remember to use signals.

A – Aware (be). Be aware of your surroundings. Watch for additional emergency vehicles. Often, multiple Tucson Fire Department emergency vehicles will respond to serious incidents i.e., house fires, serious car crashes, etc. Keep your radio volume low or turn the radio off - the emergency vehicle operator may direct you to a safe area. Check rear view mirrors frequently.

R – Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed. Be mindful that there may be additional emergency vehicles approaching.

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Emergency Vehicles (Cont.)

When approached by an emergency vehicle – the law states to pull over to the right edge of the roadway and yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. An emergency vehicle is one with an audible siren and emergency flashing lights. When driving and approaching an emergency scene – slow down and move over. In other words - **“Give us a brake!”** Keep moving and be aware of additional approaching emergency vehicles.

Reduce the risk of an accident near an emergency scene and around emergency equipment. **Stay alert** – expect anything to occur when approaching emergency vehicles. **Pay close attention** – watch for police or fire directions. **Turn on your headlights** – let emergency workers and other motorists see you. **Don’t tailgate** – unexpected stops frequently occur near emergency scenes. **Don’t speed** – slow down. **Keep up with the traffic flow** – dedicate your full attention to the roadway and those traveling around you. **Minimize distractions** – avoid changing radio stations and/or using cell phones while approaching or leaving these areas. Expect the unexpected – keep an eye out for emergency workers and their equipment. **Be patient** – remember, firefighters and paramedics are working to help someone - that someone could be one of your family members!

During the busy holiday season, traffic safety issues should be front and center for all of us. If you travel by car this season, please place extra emphasis on safety. Spending a few extra seconds to cinch the belt on your child's safety seat, or delaying departure to ensure you get enough rest before a long trip can make all the difference. Preventative safety, while measured in seconds or minutes, can save you from months or years of anguish, grief, and "what if".

'Be Safe' this holiday season and help the Tucson Fire Department help you.

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